

2001: A SPACE
ODYSSEY TM

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BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY TO THE STARS-AND BEYOND!!

BASED ON CONCEPTS
FROM THE MGM
STANLEY KUBRICK
PRODUCTION



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2001!

A SPACE ODYSSEY



THE
CAPTURE
OF
X-51!



STAN LEE PRESENTS:

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™

BASED ON CONCEPTS OF THE MGM MOVIE BY STANLEY KUBRICK AND ARTHUR C. CLARKE

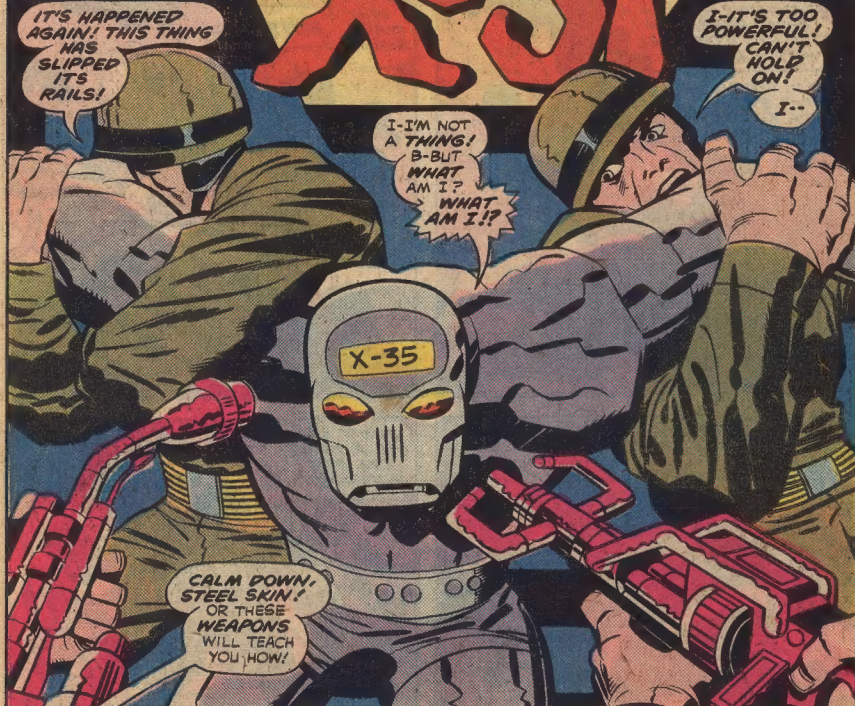
EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • LETTERED AND INKED BY **MICHAEL ROYER** • COLORED BY **PETRA G.** • OVERSEEN BY **ARCHIE GOODWIN**



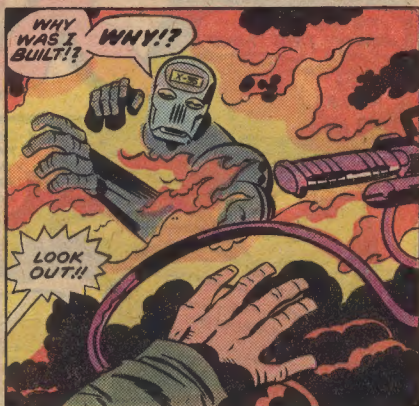
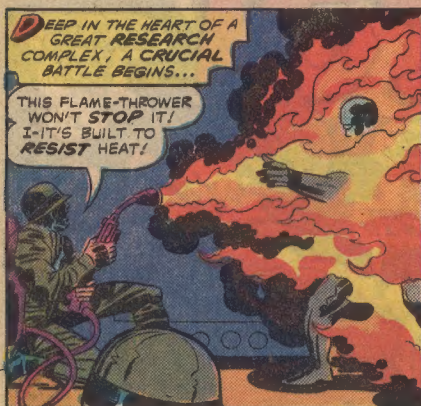
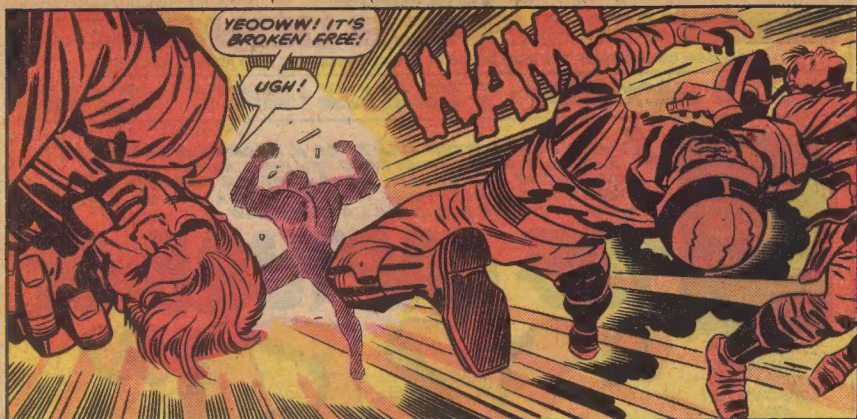
THIS IS THE
MONOLITH,
WITH A NEW
DESTINY, TO
MOLD!

IS HE A PUSH-BUTTON MAN?--OR A MACHINE IN SEARCH OF A SOUL? SUPER-HEROES WOULD PITY HIM! SUPER-VILLAINS WOULD SCOFF AT HIM! YET...HE IS A MATCH FOR ANY OF THEM!! THIS IS AN ODYSSEY TO FREEDOM...A JOURNEY FOR A NAME...FOR ONE WHO IS ONLY A NUMBER!!

THE CAPTURE OF "X-51"



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MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE GIANT INSTALLATION...

CLOSE ALL SECTION DOORS! IT MUST NOT ESCAPE!!

GOOD LORD! ANOTHER MODEL IS OUT OF CONTROL! THIS IS DISASTROUS!

DOCTOR BROADHURST—! IT'S NUMBER X-35 THIS TIME! HE'S GONE **BERSERK!!**

I'VE HEARD THE ALERT!

I SUPPOSE IT **WAS** TOO MUCH TO HOPE THAT WE'D FIND A WAY TO **STOP** THIS KIND OF INCIDENT! I'M AFRAID WE'RE FACED WITH **FAILURE**, HAINES!

IN THAT CASE, YOU **KNOW** WHAT MUST BE **DONE!**

THIS PROJECT MUST BE **SCRAPPED!** THE DECISION IS **YOURS!**

WHAT MAKES THEM GO **MAD**, HAINES?

AFTER ALL, THEY'RE ONLY "**THINKING**" COMPUTERS IN THE **FORM** OF MEN!

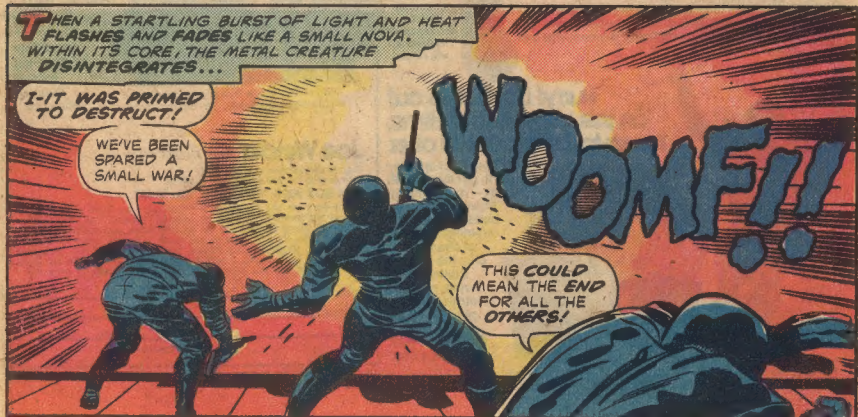
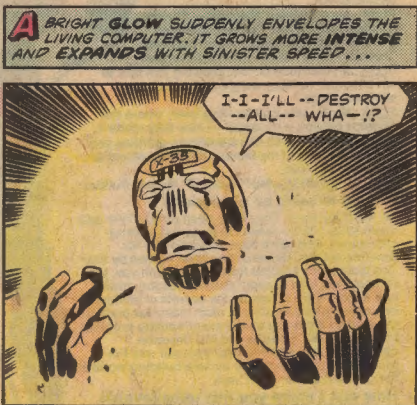
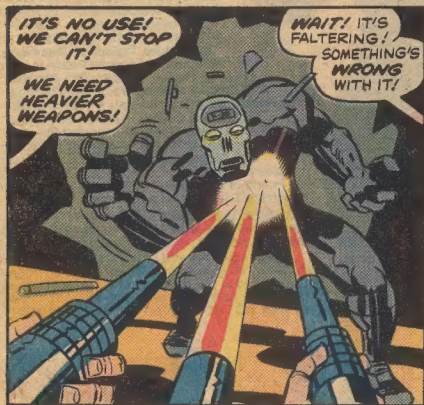
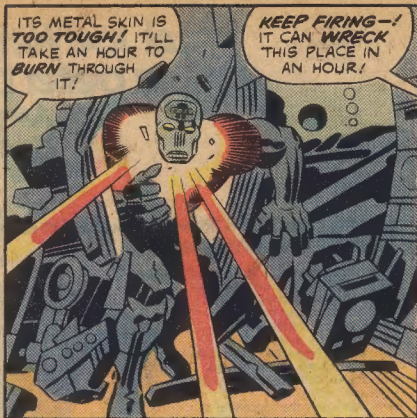
PERHAPS A COMPUTER **WASN'T MEANT** TO **THINK** ON ITS OWN! IT MAY BE JUST AS SIMPLE AS **THAT!**

NO... WE JUST WEREN'T READY TO **GRASP** THE ANSWER. WE NEEDED MORE TIME... MORE TIME!

HOWEVER, I'VE DECIDED TO **DETONATE** THE EXPLOSIVES WE PLANTED IN EACH OF OUR **ROBOTS!** IT WILL BE ALL OVER IN **THIRTY MINUTES!**

D
E
S
T
R
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C
T

30.1



THOSE WORDS ARE PROPHECIC! IN THE ASSEMBLY SECTION...

ALL PERSONNEL!
EVACUATE
IMMEDIATELY!

THEY'RE
CANCELLING
THE PROJECT!

TOO
BAD.

WE'LL TRY AGAIN...
BUT LET'S GO--BEFORE
WE BLOW UP WITH OUR
SUBJECT!



NO SOONER IS THE CHAMBER EMPTY, WHEN THE NOVA EFFECT RE-OCCURS WITH A TERRIBLE FORCE--LEAVING NOTHING IN ITS WAKE...



THE DESTRUCTIVE PROCESS IS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE INSTALLATION. WHEREVER THE MEN-MACHINES ARE LOCATED--AN EXPLOSION ERUPTS...

BOOMMM!

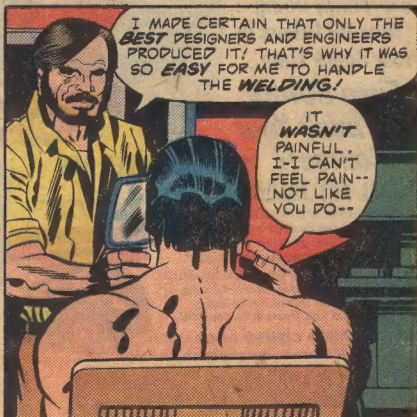
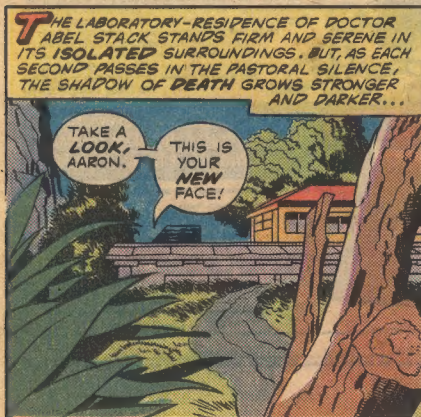
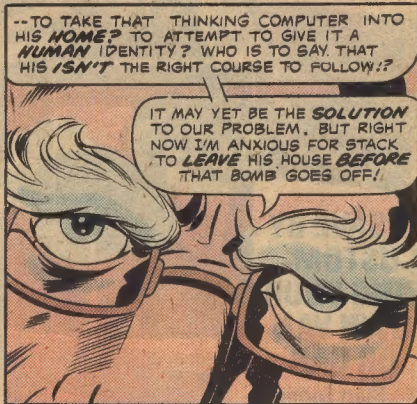
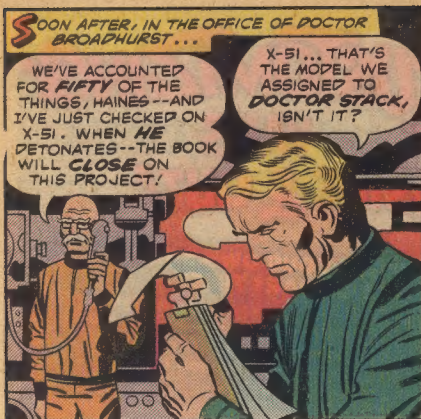
THERE WERE
TEN OF THE THINGS
IN THAT BARRACKS!
IF YOU ASK ME,
I SAY IT'S GOOD
RIDDANCE TO A
REAL MENACE!

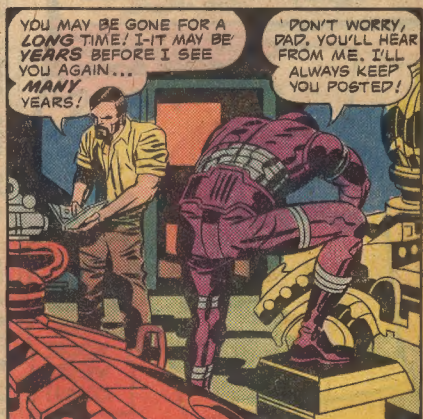
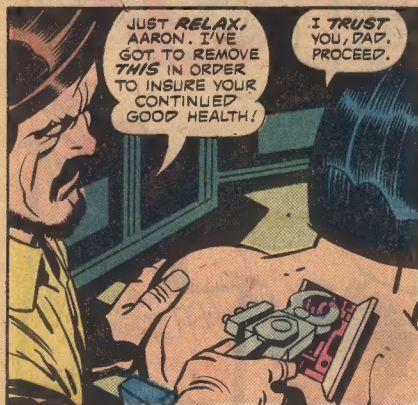
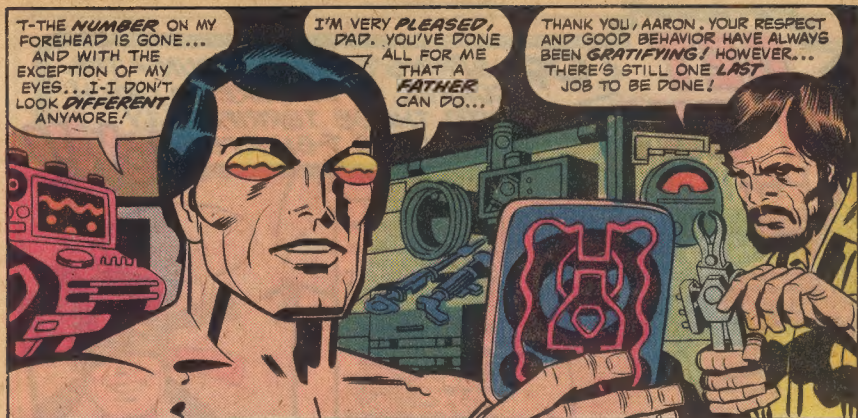


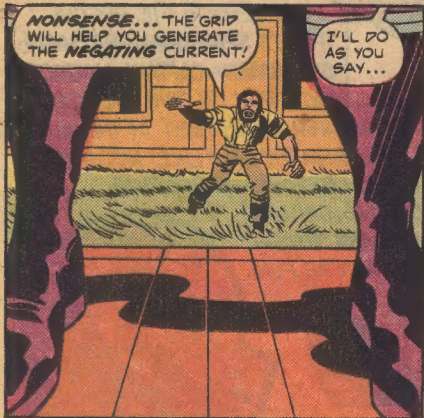
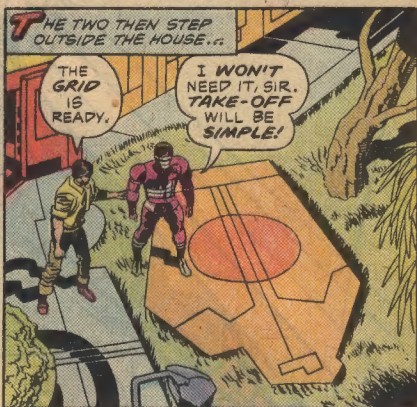
A SPECTACULAR FINISH IS IMPOSED UPON THE PROJECT THAT WOULD BLEND MAN WITH MACHINE AND INITIATE AN EXPLORATION OF THE STARS. ON THE VAST EXPANSE OF THE DESERT COMPLEX, THE REMAINING MODELS ARE--RECALLED!

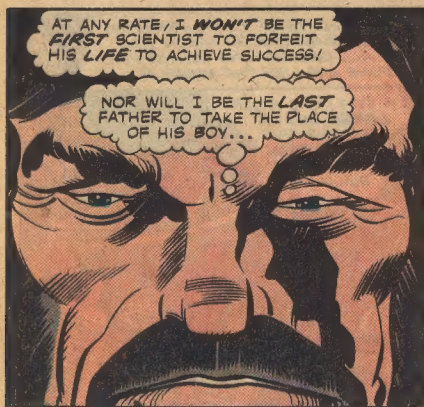
THERE GOES THE
TRAINING
SCHOOL--AND
THE REST OF
THOSE MONSTERS!



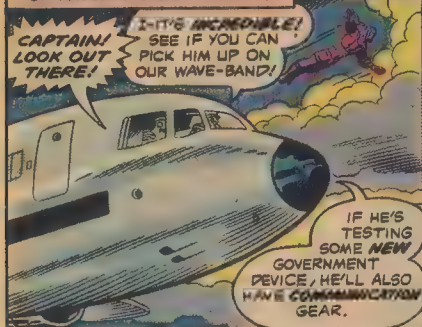




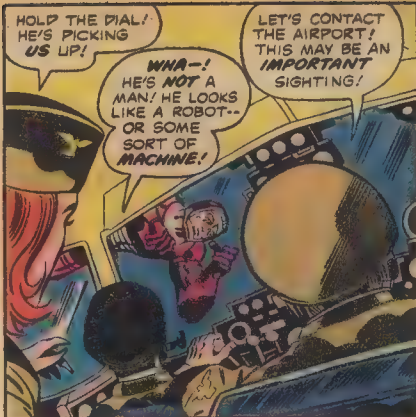




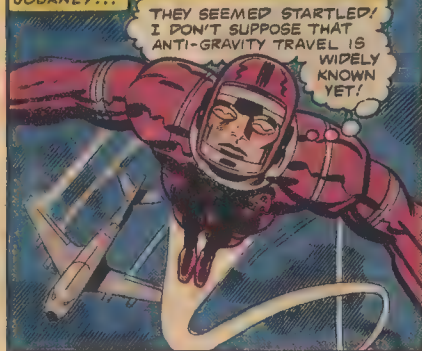
UNAWARE OF THE TRAGIC END OF HIS MENTOR, AARON CONTINUES IN FLIGHT. HE COMPUTES AND ANALYZES THE ELEMENTS AT VARIOUS ALTITUDES... AND CONFOUNDS THE SENSES OF PASSING SPECTATORS...



IF HE'S TESTING SOME NEW GOVERNMENT DEVICE, HE'LL ALSO HAVE COMMUNICATION GEAR.



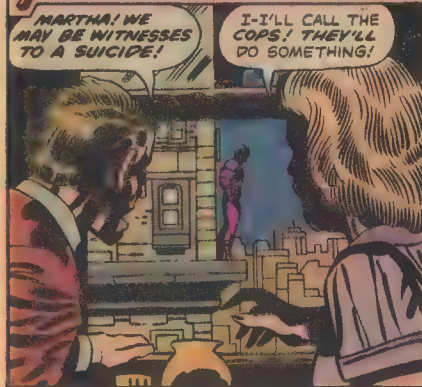
AARON SUDDENLY BREAKS OFF WITH A FRIENDLY WAVE AND RESUMES HIS JOURNEY...



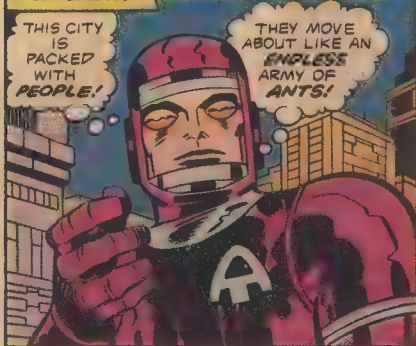
THE FEELING OF TOTAL FREEDOM IS EXHILARATING. AARON HAS LEFT ALL OBLIGATIONS BEHIND HIM. BEFORE HIM LIES THE WORLD...

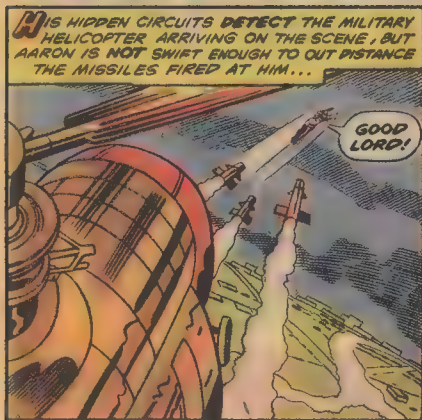
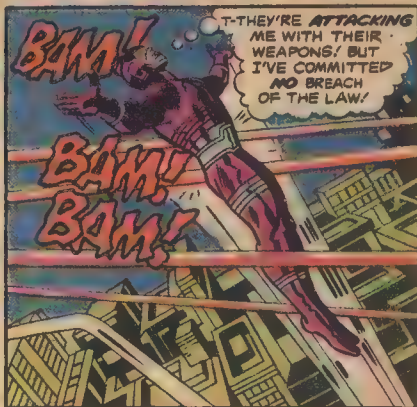
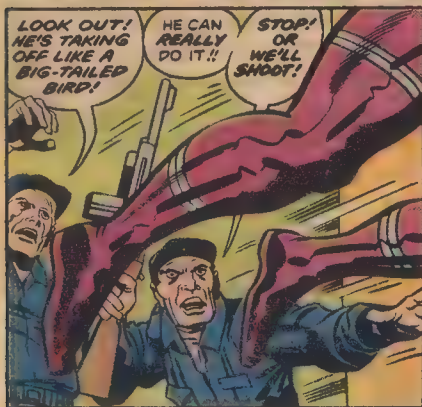
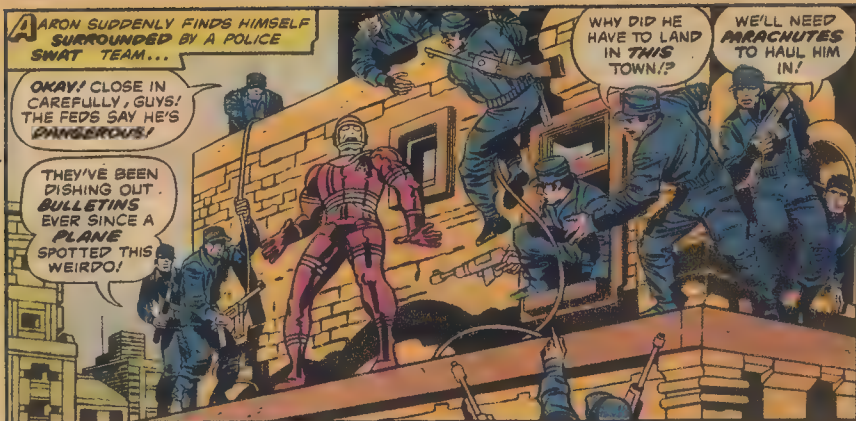


THEN, AS AARON PAUSES IN WONDER...



THE WORLD IS BECOMING AWARE OF AARON, IN TURN. HIS HIGH EXPECTATIONS ARE SOON TO BECOME A NIGHTMARISH ORDEAL...





UNLIKE THE PRECEDING HUMAN-COMPUTERS, AARON IS CONSTRUCTED TO WITHSTAND THE MOST POWERFUL ATTACK. HE INCREASES HIS SPEED AND HEADS FOR OPEN, RUGGED TERRITORY...

W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH EVERYONE!? I'M BEING TREATED LIKE A ONE MAN FOREIGN INVASION!

THE SOUND OF PLANES* REACHES HIM ONCE AGAIN. THEN...

RRRRRR

THIS LOOKS LIKE A PROPER PLACE TO THINK THINGS OUT! I-I NEED THE TIME...

AARON REACHES SHELTER AS THE GROUND BEYOND IS FURIOUSLY CHURNED TO A PULP...

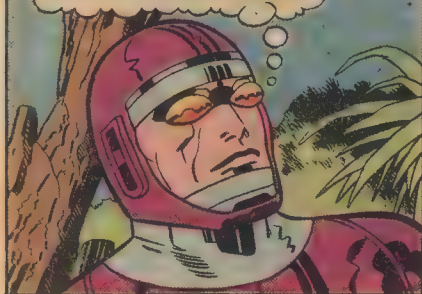
POW! POW!

POW! POW!

GREAT DAY! THEY'VE SENT JETS TO HUNT ME DOWN! B-BUT WHY? WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME HAVE I DONE?!

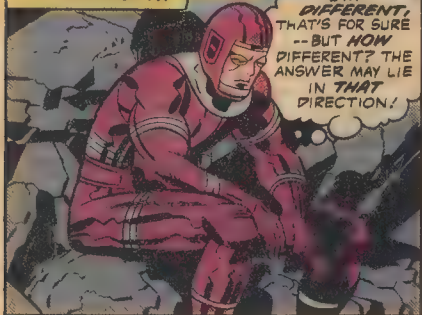
THEY'RE GONE! PERHAPS SOME BUREAUCRAT'S REALIZED HIS MISTAKE AND CALLED OFF THE STRIKE! DAD OFTEN SPOKE ABOUT THESE STRANGE ERRORS!

STILL... MY PRESENCE HAS EVIDENTLY STRUCK A **BAD CHORD** AMONG THE AUTHORITIES! WHAT IS IT ABOUT ME THAT MAKES THEM REACT SO **VOLENTLY**? IS THERE SOME **FACT** WHICH DAD WITHHELD FOR MY OWN **WELL-BEING**?!



A COMPUTER'S ANSWER WOULD BE "**INSUFFICIENT DATA**," BUT, HAVING BEEN REARED AS A HUMAN, AARON IS MERELY PUZZLED... THEN DEEPLY DISTURBED...

I'M DIFFERENT, THAT'S FOR SURE -- BUT HOW DIFFERENT? THE ANSWER MAY LIE IN THAT DIRECTION!



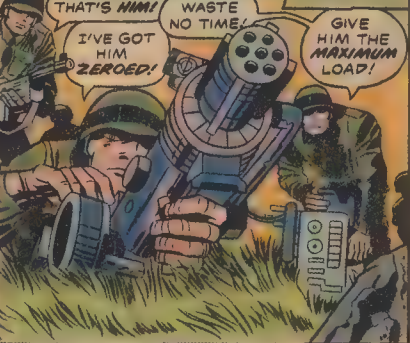
A SCREAMING BLAST OF SONIC BEAMS ZAP INTO AARON'S METAL-TOUGH BODY!



A COMPUTER'S INSTINCT IS TO **COMPUTE**. AARON ACTIVATES HIS MEMORY BANKS. HE SEARCHES FOR A CLUE TO SOLVING HIS PREDICAMENT, BUT FAILS TO FIND IT...



B BUT AARON HAS LINGERED IN THE AREA TOO LONG. HE IS DISCOVERED BY GROUND FORCES...



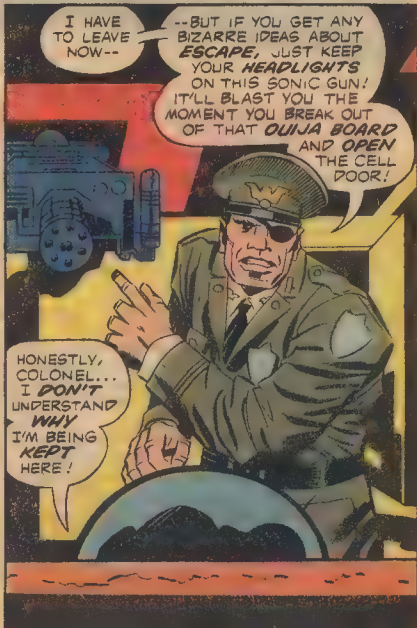
THAT'S HIM! I'VE GOT HIM ZEROED!

WASTE NO TIME!

GIVE HIM THE MAXIMUM LOAD!

IT IS SOUND, MANIPULATED TO PENETRATE WITH SUCH FORCE THAT IT ALSO TEARS GREAT BOULDERS FROM THEIR ANCHORAGE IN THE GROUND...





MEANTIME, IN THE LABORATORY OFFICE
OF DOCTOR BROADHURST...

I DARE SAY, YOU'VE SEEN AND
HEARD FOR YOURSELF, HAINES! COL.
KRAGG IS *INSUFFERABLE*!
SOMETHING MUST
BE DONE ABOUT HIM!

HE'S *STILL*
THE BEST
SECURITY
CHIEF WE'VE
EVER HAD!

OH, HE'S *BRAVE*
AND DEDICATED TO
HIS JOB! I'LL GRANT
HIM THAT! BUT, HIS
ATTITUDE TOWARD
X-51
IT'S--

--WE MUST
CONSIDER
HIS *LOSS* OF
AN EYE TO
THE MACHINES--
THE CASUALTIES
INFLECTED
ON HIS MEN--

--YES, YES, YES!
IT WAS
DEPLORABLE!
BUT, ALL IN
THE LINE OF
DUTY!
THIS *PRESENT*
BEHAVIOR MAY
GENERATE
NEW PROBLEMS
FOR US!

SO NOW
IT'S THE
HUMANS
THAT
DISTURB
YOU, EH?

YOU *FOOL*! DON'T YOU SEE WHAT
KRAGG HAS DONE? WHEN HE
STRIPPED THAT MACHINE OF
ITS *FACE*, HE REMOVED ITS
VITAL *LINK* TO HUMANITY!

THAT MACHINE
HAS *LOST* ITS
IDENTITY!
IT MAY
GO *MAD*!

AT THAT MOMENT...

THERE'S
KRAGG NOW.
HE'LL HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY
TO SPEAK FOR
HIMSELF!

NEVERTHELESS,
IT *WON'T*
CHANGE THINGS!
WE'RE STILL FACED
WITH *ANOTHER*
EXPLOSIVE
SITUATION!

BZZT!

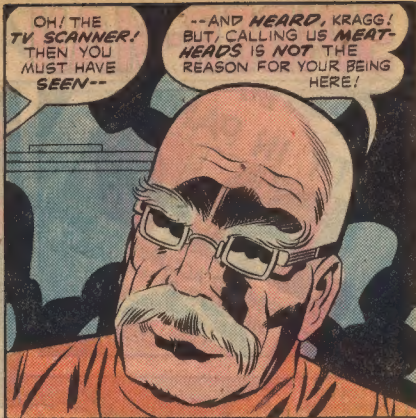


THEN...

YOU GENTLEMEN SENT FOR ME?

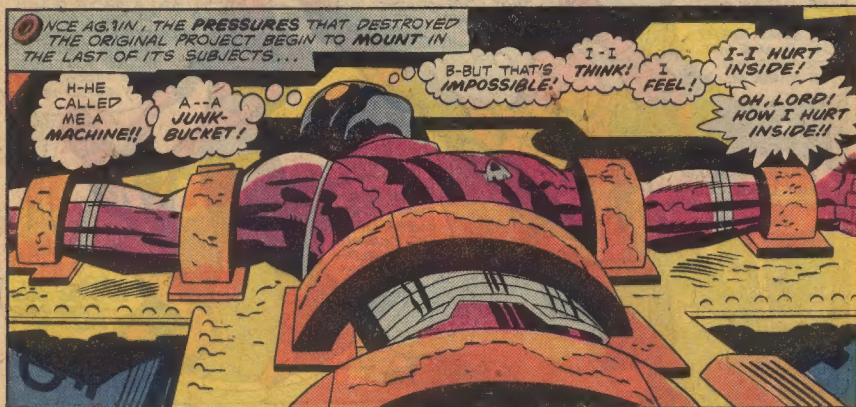
COME IN, KRAGG. WE'VE MUCH TO DISCUSS!

WE'VE BEEN OBSERVING THE CELL OF OUR CAPTIVE.



OH! THE TV SCANNER! THEN YOU MUST HAVE SEEN--

--AND HEARD, KRAGG! BUT, CALLING US MEAT-HEADS IS NOT THE REASON FOR YOUR BEING HERE!



ONCE AGAIN, THE PRESSURES THAT DESTROYED THE ORIGINAL PROJECT BEGIN TO MOUNT IN THE LAST OF ITS SUBJECTS...

H-HE CALLED ME A MACHINE!!

A--A JUNK-BUCKET!

B-BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

I-I THINK!

I FEEL!

I-I HURT INSIDE!

OH, LORD! NOW I HURT INSIDE!!



SOMEHOW, I MUST REACH THEM, SO THEY'LL UNDERSTAND! DON'T THEY SEE THAT WE'RE BROTHERS!?

WE'RE BROTHERS, YOU IDIOTS!!



I-IT'S NO USE!

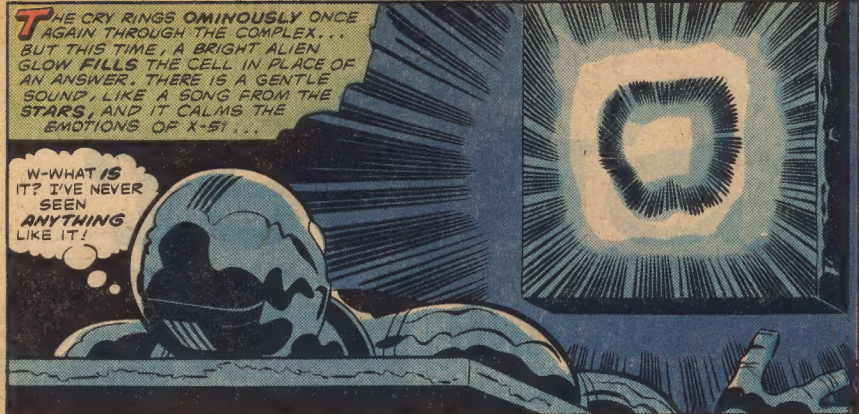
THEY WON'T LISTEN!

DO YOU HEAR ME, DAD!?! THEY WILL NOT LISTEN! THEY HATE ME! WHY DO THEY HATE ME!?! IS IT BECAUSE THEY FEAR ME!?!?

WHY!? WHY!?

THE CRY RINGS OMINOUSLY ONCE AGAIN THROUGH THE COMPLEX... BUT THIS TIME, A BRIGHT ALIEN GLOW FILLS THE CELL IN PLACE OF AN ANSWER. THERE IS A GENTLE SOUND, LIKE A SONG FROM THE STARS, AND IT CALMS THE EMOTIONS OF X-51...

W-WHAT IS IT? I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!



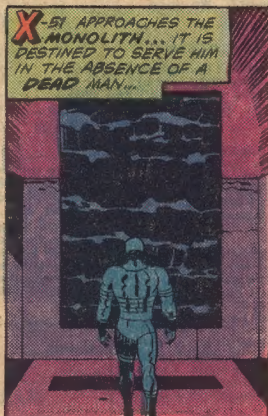
IN SOME STRANGE MANNER, A BALANCE IS RESTORED WITHIN THE CAPTIVE. BUSILY, HIS CIRCUITS LEAP TO LIFE. HIS GREAT STRENGTH RETURNS!



NEVER AGAIN SHALL I BE BOUND OR HELPLESS BEFORE MEN! NOR SHALL I TOLERATE THOSE WHO DO IT TO OTHERS!



X-51 APPROACHES THE MONOLITH... IT IS DESTINED TO SERVE HIM IN THE ABSENCE OF A DEAD MAN...



NEXT: GET IN ON THE GROUND FLOOR AND WITNESS THE--

**BIRTH
OF A
SUPER
HERO**

MONOLITH MAIL

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Jack,

I've read the first four issues of 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY, and I have but one thing to say—Fantastic! Your work is as good as usual; but I do have a few complaints and suggestions, if you don't mind.

First of all, the first two issues were exactly the same, except the first was a man, and the second a woman. Now, Jack, if you keep on doing this your mag is going to go downhill. Instead, you should go into depth on the New Seed. For instance, you could have the little guy speed around the galaxy encountering new forms of life. You could even say he has special powers; like telepathy, or he could even rearrange matter with his mind. Something along those lines.

Now, on your third and fourth issues, I have to say I was very pleased. Marak is a superb character. His merger with Jalessa in the fourth issue was great. But when you suddenly switched the scene to the future, with a character named Marik, supposedly Marak's descendant, I feared you were going to end the comic the way you ended #1 and #2. But when he didn't change in the environment the Monolith had created for him, I gave a large hurrah! He gave me the impression that he deserved to live at a normal rate.

Scott Loy

923 Mayfair Place, Rockford, IL 61108

Dear Jack:

2001 has a great deal of potential; you seem to be able to bring out the best in the strip. Your larger-than-life style of art is perfect, and since your characters are now starting to have some dialogue between themselves, your writing skill is revealing more depth.

Expanding into multi-part sagas was a good idea. However, the present format, with an incident in the past directly relating to an incident in the future may become dull after awhile. Also, certain questions beg for answers. What does NASA do when it realizes that its deep space astronauts are being kidnapped? And what happens to the New Seeds as they wander the universe?

Jim Golds

Box 8398 Reynolds Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27109

Dear King Kirby:

After reading 2001 #4, I feel I have to pen my thoughts about it. I was relieved to see that Marak was not subject to the rapid aging process, as were the other protagonists of this mag. Technically, I think the comic is a work of art. The drawings are perfect and you have elaborated the thoughts of a pretty confusing movie into an understandable format.

Is it possible to explain more about the Monolith? As the focal point of the series, I think it deserves a little more

attention. And why not do a story in which we see what happens when/if a principal character defies the Monolith?

Paul Stefanó

57 Academy Hill, Derby, CT 06418

Dear Jack:

Your treatment of the concepts presented in the movie/novel 2001: A Space Odyssey has brought me to the point of anger. It is my opinion that your treatment is entirely off base. Clarke, in the novel, gave the impression that the Monolith was just a one-time experiment—4,000,000 years ago—and its purpose was just to teach the man-apes how to survive! You're making it look like man didn't make a single technological advancement on his own!

In forthcoming issues, I expect you'll have a Monolith telling the Wright brothers how to build a glider, or telling Edison how to make a light bulb!

Also; you seem to be mired in the past, while the movie-novel concentrated mainly on the future. I, for one, am much more interested in learning if there ever was a Discovery 2, and what impact the Bowman/Star Child's arrival had on earth.

Edward Oines

3609 S. West Avenue #5, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

No one here at Mighty Marvel, least of all Jack Kirby, would quibble with your right to your own opinion, Ed. However, we get the impression that you've somehow missed the point of this publication—namely, it is not an adaptation of the film, 2001. King Kirby already attended to that in a large-size Marvel Treasury. Rather, this title is Jack's interpretation and extension of a legend; his treatment is not off base, it is entirely his own. Your point about attributing too much to the mysterious aid of the Monolith as per human achievements is well taken, though. Ed—and we appreciate your critical concern and hope we'll continue to receive it!

Dear Jack,

2001 must be a very difficult strip to do. The only thing one issue has in common with the next is the Monolith. Issue #'s 3-4, though, are the best of all the "New Seed" epics. Marak the Merciless seems so real that I think he was the prototype for all conquerors. Egel the Thing Maker was totally outsize! Why is it that it's always an old man who has the guts to stand up against the local bully?

Jalessa, too, was an intriguing character. Will we ever see her and Marak again? Here's an idea: Follow up on the lives of their children and their relationship with the Monolith. The weirdest thing about this two-parter was Herb Marik. Why was he immune to the evolution process? Will there be more "Random Failures" in future epics?

Jack, while you're not my favorite artist, you've developed a uniqueness that separates this from CAP, PANTHER, and ETERNALS. I hope you never leave the strip (unless, of course, something even bigger comes along). So, until the New Seed evolves into a New Geranium, make mine—er, uh—what was that name again?

Bob Lackey

32 Eileen Drive, Mahwah, NJ 07430

THE HULK! NIGHTHAWK! VALKYRIE! and MARVEL'S MIGHTIEST GUEST-STARS... EVERY MONTH IN

THE DEFENDERS



EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED WITH THE MOST STARTLING NON-GROUP IN COMICS HISTORY!

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

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